

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is requiring election of one of the following groups:

Group I: Claims 20-37 and 48 are drawn to method and kits for quantifying HMW-Ad or high molecular weight adiponectin (target) in a sample.

Group II: Claims 20, 31, 38-41, and 48 are drawn to methods and kits for quantifying MMW-Ad or middle molecular weight adiponectin (target) in a sample.

Group III: Claims 20, 31, 42-46, and 48 are drawn to method and kits for quantifying LMW-Ad or low molecular weight adiponectin (target) in a sample.

Group IV: Claims 20, 31, and 47-48 are drawn to methods and kits for quantifying ULMW-Ad or ultra low molecular weight adiponectin (target) in a sample.

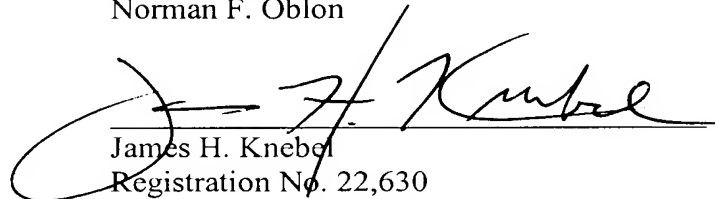
Applicants elect species Group I, Claims 20-37 and 48 drawn to methods and kits for quantifying HMW-Ad or high molecular weight adiponectin (targets) in a sample.

Applicants respectfully submit that, should the claims of Group I be found allowable, the Office should expand its search to the claims of species Groups II, III and IV.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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